

Is my teenager ready to begin driving?

Becoming a licensed driver is a milestone for teenagers that they pursue with apprehension and excitement as a license provides them with new found independence. While this is a positive experience for most teenagers, it can also be an opportunity for them to make poor choices if they're unprepared. When allowing teenagers to begin learning to drive, parents need to consider their maturity level, their understanding of the concept of safe driving, and whether or not they are willing to follow state laws as well as house rules.

Parents are encouraged to ease their children into the training process by practicing in low traffic areas such as parking lots or on side streets. It's important to realize that not all parents are cut out to be driving teachers and if you appear anxious, this will make your teenager nervous. If you're not comfortable, ask that someone else take on this task. Parents should remain calm and be patient when instructing children how to drive. Encouraging teenagers to talk about the maneuvers prior to when they occur helps you and your teenager to avoid accidents. If a mistake is made, ask that your teenager pull the car over and discuss what transpired before beginning again. Parents should be generous with their praise and offer positive feedback about their children's abilities.

Parents are encouraged to be positive role models by being courteous and safe drivers while behind the wheel. With practice and encouragement, your teenager will become a safe and experienced driver.